

Claims

1. A vehicle for travelling along a conduit having fluid flowing therein, the vehicle comprising:-at least one first body portion;

a plurality of first retractable resilient members mounted to said body portion and adapted to engage an internal wall of a conduit such that said first resilient members resist movement of the apparatus along a conduit in a first direction more than in a second direction opposite to said first direction;

a plurality of second retractable resilient members mounted to said body portion and adapted to engage the internal wall of the conduit such that said second resilient members resist movement of the apparatus along the conduit in said second direction more than in said first direction;

at least one second body portion having a respective plurality of third resilient members adapted to engage the internal wall of the conduit such that said third resilient members resist movement of the second body portion relative to the conduit in one of said first or second direction more than in the other of said first or second direction; and

moving means for moving said first body portion and the or each said second body portion towards and away from each other;

wherein said first and second resilient members are stiffer than said third resilient members.

2. A vehicle according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of said first and/or second and/or third resilient members are bristles.

3. A vehicle according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising cam means provided on said first body portion for retracting said first and/or second resilient members.

4. A vehicle according to claim 3, wherein said cam means comprises first support means for a plurality of said first resilient members, second support means for a plurality of said second

-10-

resilient members, and displacement means for causing radial displacement of said first and/or second support means relative to said first body portion.

5. A vehicle according to claim 4, wherein said displacement means comprises at least one displacement member axially moveable relative to the first body portion and having a respective mating surface for engaging a corresponding surface on at least one said first and/or second support means such that movement of the or each said displacement member causes radial displacement of the or each said first or second support means.
6. A vehicle according to claim 5, wherein at least one said displacement member is axially displaceable relative to the first body portion.
7. A vehicle according to claim 5 or 6, wherein at least one said displacement member is rotatable relative to the first body portion.
8. A vehicle according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one said second body portion is slidably mounted to a shaft connected to said first body portion.
9. A vehicle according to claim 8 wherein said moving means comprises at least one screw thread on said shaft and rotating means for rotating the shaft relative to at least one said second body portion.
10. A vehicle according to any one of the preceding claims,9 further comprising drive means for operating said moving means.
11. A vehicle according to claim 10, wherein the drive means has at least one shaft portion adapted to be rotated by the fluid flow.
12. A vehicle according to claims 10 or 11, wherein the drive means is electrically operated.
13. A vehicle according to claims 11 and 12, wherein the drive means is rechargeable through rotation of at least one said shaft portion.

-11-

14. A vehicle according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising deployable means for increasing fluid drag on the vehicle.

15. A vehicle according to claim 14, wherein the deployable means is a parachute.

16. A vehicle for travelling along a conduit having fluid flowing therein, the vehicle substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.